

FIRBECK PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting of 27th September 2023

Present: Cllr C Jopling (Chair), Cllr D Pittard, Cllr J Pittard, Cllr B McManus, Cllr R Potts.

In attendance: 8 members of the public

3603 Apologies – To Receive and Approve Reasons for Absence. Nil.

3604 Declarations of Interest. Nil.

3605 Public Discussion Period. Members of the public in attendance provided their thoughts on projects suitable for funding from CIL funds in response to the council's leaflet campaign (inviting views on what the council had identified as appropriate projects). In addition to those present, a number of residents had responded to the Chair by e mail.

In a free ranging discussion with councillors, the three projects identified by the council were considered as were others- the possibility of reducing speed limits in the village and improving the state and condition of the pathways (pavements) along New Road. From this discussion the following conclusions were drawn:

- There was widespread support for the horse sculptures.
- Whilst there was also general support to improve the junction at Kidd Lane (specifically the verges), it was requested that any improvements should not 'shave' the corner as that would encourage vehicles to turn at increased speeds. The Chair informed those present that RMBC Highways currently had the project on their agenda and hoped that they would soon be able to design a scheme to improve the junction. However, she had been told any scheme would involve dropping the kerb. Therefore, it would be appropriate for the council to look at other options for ameliorating the grass verge there.
- There was some support for CCTV in the village, particularly following some recent incidents. The overall effectiveness versus the cost of such a system was questioned but the deterrent value was acknowledged as was the desirability of involving the community in crowd funding to help finance the scheme (as has been done in other villages). Any system would need to be installed/monitored by RMBC to comply with GDPR, it would not be a 24/7 monitored system, nor was it likely to have number plate recognition capability. The parish council would not have direct access but would be able to request that footage is examined in the event of an incident and scrutinised by police. The parish council have asked RMBC to advise on an appropriate system and to provide costings.
- There was general support for a reduction in the speed limit within the village to 20mph, but it was acknowledged that this was not an appropriate use of CIL funds. The Chair reported that at a recent site meeting with officials there had been little enthusiasm for a speed reduction scheme which they suggested would need to involve traffic calming measures not just signage and indicated informally could cost thousands of pounds even to get to the design stage. Notwithstanding this response, the council commissioned a traffic survey to establish a benchmark as to the volume of traffic and speeds attained through the village. This showed around 8% of vehicles passing through the village travelled above the speed limit, in some cases substantially above the limit, and therefore the council will continue to push for a speed limit reduction.

- The footways are the responsibility of RMBC as the highway authority and therefore not an appropriate project for CIL funding. The poor condition has been raised by the council already and at least two inspections made following which some running repairs were made. RMBC do not consider the footway to be unsafe and therefore in the present financial climate the likelihood of it being re surfaced is nil.

3606 To Approve the Parish Council Minutes:

- a. 19th July 2023. The minutes were approved as an accurate record.

3607 Ward Update. Nil

3608 Finance:

- a. To Approve the Bank Reconciliation – 31st August 2023. **Resolved:** that the bank reconciliation be approved.
- b. To Approve the Budget Monitoring Report – 31st August 2023. **Resolved:** that the budget monitoring report be approved.
- c. To Approve Accounts for Payment. **Resolved:** that the monthly accounts covering the period since the last meeting be approved for payment.
- d. To Discuss Ideas for Possible CIL Spends. Members unanimously agreed to commit to all three projects below.
- i. The Horse Sculpture Project for the Kidd Lane Bridge Triangle. Members agreed to approve the purchase of the single-sided, 5mm sculptures, with an installed cost of £4903.
- ii. CCTV. Advice on an appropriate system and associated quotes were to be requested.
- iii. Verge Improvements. As above.

3609 Updates on Current/Ongoing Issues

- a. Verges/Grass Maintenance and General Street Scene. Nothing further to add to items above.
- b. 'I Love Firbeck' Project – update. The results for the Britian-in-Bloom contest were expected tomorrow (28th Sep). Support had been received to develop the old telephone box into a local information hub and appropriate materials would now be purchased to complete this project.
- c. New Siting/Positioning for Wooden Village Sign. No significant progress.
- d. Arrangement for Unveiling of new Painted Village Sign. No significant progress.
- e. Village Road Safety, Including Speed Limits and HGV Traffic. See above.
- f. Village CCTV – update. See above.
- g. Second Defibrillator – update. The PCC had agreed in principle for the church porch to be used as allocation for a second defibrillator in the village. Costs for the purchase and installation were now to be obtained.
- h. Village Neighbourhood Plan. Still awaiting information on government grant funding.

3610 Planning

- a. To Consider the Following Planning Applications:

- i. RB2023/0989 – Demolition of existing bungalow, garage and outbuildings and erection of two storey dwelling with balcony to rear and detached garage Linden Bank 8 Kidd Lane Firbeck. No comments
- ii. RB2023/1201 - erection of porch to front and replacement pitched roof to existing front extension and extension to existing detached garage Park Hill Farm Park Hill Drive Firbeck. No comments

b. To Note the Following Planning Applications Processed Since the Last Meeting.

- i. RB2023/0745 – prior notification for the proposed change of use of an agricultural building to a dwellinghouse (use class c3) land off New Road Firbeck – REFUSED. Concern was raised over the lack of notification provided to residents regarding this application, with RMBC seemingly in breach of its own procedures. Members were to provide the Clerk with details to submit a complaint to RMBC.

3611 To Discuss the Village Switch to Digital Voice. BT customers in the village would soon see their service switched to digital voice (less some exceptions, e.g. residents over 70, those who only have a landline capability etc.). Those affected should have received detailed information from BT. Those residents that are non-BT customers would not be affected.

3612 To Discuss the 80th Anniversary of D-Day. There was no evident village enthusiasm for a specific event to mark the occasion.

3613 To Agree any Response to a NALC Consultation on Local Plans. No response was to be submitted by the council.

There being no other business the meeting closed at 8:10pm.

The next meeting would be held at 7pm on **Wednesday 22nd November 2023.**

Signed:.....

Date:.....